GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:60
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
DEATH OF FARMERS DUE TO PESTICIDE EXPOSURE
MINATI SEN;PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned `500 farmers die of pesticide exposure in Andhra Pradesh` appearing in the Times of India dated April 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any enquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to educate the farmers in handling toxic pesticide?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): As per the report received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, a fewincidents of hospitalization were reported on account of repeated use of high doses and improper methods of spraying of pesticides under high temperature. These cases might have happened due to over exposure particularly due to non-observance of safety measures by farmers/farm labourers and sprays being undertaken during hot periods of the day.

(e): The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968approves label and leaflet for all pesticides which include directions for use. If the pesticides are used as per the prescribed directions, they do not pose any harm to human beings, animals and the environment. Further, Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce consumption of chemical pesticides. Farmers are provided training on safe and judicious use of pesticides by organizing farmers field schools. Training is also imparted to medical doctors on diagnosis and effective management of pesticide poisoning cases.